

TITO'S RELATIONS WITH THE USSR THROUGH 1944

Although Tito spend some time in Moscow on Cominform, Balkan, or Yugoslav Communist business, his dealings with top level Soviet leaders in the pre-war years were negligible. During the early years of the war he and other Partisan leaders were in telegraphic contact with Stalin, Molotov, and others, seeking material aid and advice concerning the development of their Communist movement. Soviet inability or unwillingness to send planes and supplies, and its hesitation in encouraging any forthright or independent action by the Partisans disturbed Tito and his cohorts, at least according to their post-break version of this era.

1915 - Tito, a private in Austro-Hungarian Army, was captured by, or deserted to, the Russians.

1915-1920 - Remained in Russia, participating in the revolution on Bolshevik side, marrying a Russian woman, having a son (who fought with Red Army in 1941).

Winter 1934-35 - Returned to Soviet Union on order of Yugoslav Communist Party and stayed for 15 months or so. Saw Moscow for first time. Studied and delivered lectures on trade unionism.

1936-37 - From Paris Tito helped channel volunteers to the Spanish Civil War.

Late 1937 - Summoned to Moscow where he was given leadership of Yugoslav Party, which at that time was ineffective

and strife-ridden, largely over the nationalities question. In Moscow conferred with Dimitrov, Secretary General of the Comintern.

1938-39 - 2 additional trips to Moscow. Talks with Dimitrov. Distrust of Yugo Communists noted by Tito and other Yugoslavs.

Late 1939 - Last pre-war visit, lasting more than four months. Tito felt that Yugo prestige in Moscow had risen by then.

1941 - Yugo disillusionment, allegedly, over Soviet failure to credit Partisan efforts. Dedijer claims that, except for Veroshilov speech Nov 1941, whole Yugo uprising ascribed to Mihailovic.

Spring 1942 - Repeated Partisan requests for material aid unheeded.

Fall 1942 - Stalin opposed plan of newly organized Anti-Fascist Council of National Liberation (AVNOJ) to set up provisional government.

November 1943 - AVNOJ resolution assuming authority in Yugoslavia criticized by Stalin. Yugo representative in Moscow, Vlahovic, reprimanded and his broadcasts censored.

February 1944 - Soviet military mission finally arrived in Yugo.

April & May 1944 - Djilas mission to Soviet Union. Positive impressions but no promise of Stalin's recognition for the AVNOJ National Committee.

April 1944 - Some Soviet planes arrived in Yugo.

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September 1944 - Tito left for Moscow where he first
met Stalin.

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